



**Testimony
Kathryn Dube
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Environment Committee
March 17, 2014**

SB-446 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT GRANT AND PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports SB-446 which would establish a grant and educational program to assist in the management and prevention of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

For many years towns throughout the state have been faced with the problems presented by AIS. Local municipalities have worked tirelessly towards containment and eradication; however as new species are continuously introduced their efforts are rendered unsuccessful. These non-native and prolific invasive species continue to grow out of control and are now threatening the viability of our waterways throughout the state.

Local and state collaboration is key to the overall management and prevention of invasive species. Therefore, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports SB-446 which will assist municipalities in the maintenance of the states waterways and will ensure proper prevention of AIS.